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Forty-seventh session
Item 98 (a) of the provisional agenda*

HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: IMPLEMENTATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS INSTRUMENTS

Status of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The General Assembly, by its resolution 45/158 of 18 December 1990, adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and called upon all Member States to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the Convention as a matter of priority.

2. By its resolution 46/114 of 17 December 1991, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its forty-seventh session a report on the status of the Convention.

3. By its resolution 1992/81 of 6 March 1992, the Commission on Human Rights requested the Secretary-General to provide all facilities and assistance necessary for the promotion of the Convention, through the World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights and the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights; invited agencies and organizations of the United Nations system, as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to intensify their efforts with a view to disseminating information on the Convention and to promoting understanding thereof; and requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission at its forty-ninth session a report on the status of the Convention.

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* A/47/150.

4. As at 1 August 1992, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families had received two signatures, by Mexico and Morocco. No ratifications or accessions to this Convention had been received by or deposited with the Secretary-General.

UNITED NATIONS

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10 September 1992

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Forty-seventh session
Item 32 of the provisional agenda*

LAW OF THE SEA

Letter dated 9 September 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Viet Nam to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the full text of a note dated 3 September 1992 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China concerning the activities of a Chinese oil-drilling ship in a sea area under Vietnamese sovereignty in the Tonkin Gulf (see annex).

I should be very grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under item 32 of the provisional agenda.

(Signed) TRINH XUAN LANG
Ambassador Extraordinary and
Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative

* A/47/150.

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ANNEX

Note dated 3 September 1992 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Viet Nam to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China and has the honour to bring the following matter to the latter's notice:

According to the information available to Viet Nam, on two consecutive days, 1 and 2 September 1992, the radio stations of Hainan and Zhanjiang ports repeatedly broadcast announcements to the effect that at 1500 hours on 31 August 1992, the Chinese oil-drilling ship Nanhai-6 left its position 42 miles south-east of Zhanjiang for a new position at latitude 19°17' N and longitude 107°16' E to carry out oil drilling from 2400 hours on 3 September 1992 until 4 March 1993. The announcement also forbade vessels to come within a 1,000-metre radius of the oil-drilling ship.

This took place after the announcement made by Zhanjiang port radio station that the Chinese surveying ship Fendou-5 would carry out seismic surveys from 19 to 30 August 1992 in the following coordinates:

(a) Latitude 18°45' N and longitude 107°40' E;

(b) Latitude 18°45' N and longitude 107°50' E;

(c) Latitude 18° N and longitude 107°40' E.

The announcement also said that vessels were not allowed to enter a 1,500-metre-radius area around the surveying ship.

The Vietnamese side is deeply concerned at the above information as these activities are carried out in a sea area under Viet Nam's sovereignty; in particular, the point where the oil-drilling ship Nanhai-6 plans to carry out its activities is only 70 miles from Ba Lat estuary, the closest point on the Vietnamese coast. This area also lies on the national and international sea routes for the ports of Hai Phong and Quang Ninh. Furthermore, as long ago as 18 January 1974, the Chinese side sent a note to the Vietnamese side proposing that, pending a demarcation of territorial seas between the two countries, the two sides temporarily suspend exploration activities in the area of longitude 107° to 108° and latitude 18° to 20°. Following the oil-exploration and exploitation agreement between the Ocean Oil and Gas Company of China and the Crestone Energy Corporation of the United States of America on Tu Chinh reef, located in Viet Nam's southern continental shelf, the above-listed activities run counter to the agreement reached at the highest level between the two countries that, pending a settlement of disputes, neither side should do anything to aggravate the situation. Moreover, the two sides have also

reached a high-level agreement to open negotiations soon on problems relating to the border on land, in the Tonkin Gulf and in the Eastern Sea. The above-mentioned activities do not help create an atmosphere favourable to the forthcoming negotiations.

The Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam proposes that the Government of the People's Republic of China instruct the Chinese branches and localities concerned immediately to stop implementing the set plan and refrain from similar activities in the future. The Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam hopes that, for the sake of global interests and to facilitate the forthcoming negotiations, the Chinese Government will respond to Viet Nam's proposal.